

soni, sent by Colonel G. Rippon, the specific distinctness of *G. davisoni* has been fully established.

The type specimen was procured to the north-east of Bhamo, and we know nothing more about the distribution of this species. The female is unknown.

The male has the hind-neck, mantle, back, wing-coverts, and scapulars black, each feather rather finely marked with zigzag white lines parallel to the margins of the webs, and each pair of such lines forming a spoon-shaped pattern. The rump and upper tail-coverts are black, with more or less transverse zigzag vermiculations, while each feather is fringed with white, the first vermiculation and the white fringe being separated by a black band. The lower plumage is entirely black. The middle tail-feathers are black, with white lines parallel to the shaft; the three outer pairs are almost entirely black, and the intermediate pairs are progressively less marked with white lines than the middle feathers. The wings are black obliquely barred with white. The wing measures 9·5 inches; the tail about 11 inches.

X.—*On the Genera Xenerpestes and Metopothrix.*

By HANS, Graf von BERLEPSCH.

I. XENERPESTES.

In a third article on the birds collected by Mr. J. Stolzmann in Ecuador, published in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society' for 1885, the late Dr. L. Taczanowski, in concert with me, has described and figured a curious bird under the name of *Synallaxis singularis* *.

Unfortunately my friend Taczanowski did not at that time send me the bird itself for examination, but merely a description of it, from which I satisfied myself that it belonged to an undescribed species quite unknown to me. Taczanowski placed it in the genus *Synallaxis*, admitting at the same time that it was an abnormal species of that genus.

Through the kindness of Mr. Stolzmann, I have lately

* Tacz. & Berl. P. Z. S. 1885, p. 96, pl. vii. fig. 2.

had an opportunity of examining the type of *Synallaxis singularis*, belonging to the Branicki Museum at Warsaw, and I am now in a position to affirm positively that it is no *Synallaxis* at all, but belongs to *Xenerpestes*—a genus proposed by me in 'The Ibis' (1886, p. 54) for a strange-looking bird from Bucaramanga, Colombia, viz. *X. minlosi* Berl.—of which genus it forms a second species.

In fact, *S. singularis* agrees with *X. minlosi* in all essential generic characters. The form of the bill is nearly the same, being but a little shorter and broader and less curved in its apical portion. There is hardly any difference in the form of the wings and the tail. The legs and the toes, with their claws, are quite of the same structure.

Regarding coloration, there is at least a great analogy in the general distribution of colours to be observed when the two species are compared closely together.

The frontal feathers in *S. singularis* are short and stiff, as in *X. minlosi*, but while in *X. minlosi* they are blackish, like the rest of the pileum, with narrow whitish shaft-stripes, they are of a bright uniform rufous in *S. singularis*. The posterior part of the crown and all the remaining upper parts are of a uniform olivaceous grey in the latter species, while in the former the back is of a darker and purer ashy grey, without any olivaceous suffusion.

The tail-feathers are nearly the same colour in the two species.

The broad white wing-bands of *X. minlosi*, formed by the white tips of the longest and middle wing-coverts, are wanting in *S. singularis*; nevertheless they are indicated by slight whitish margins or apical points to be observed on several of the larger and middle wing-coverts. Unfortunately this feature is not indicated in the coloured figure of *S. singularis*.

The blackish spots on the under parts of the body in *S. singularis* are also indicated in the young of the other species (see description in 'Ibis,' 1886, p. 54). The white superciliary stripe and the white ground-colour of the under parts are slightly tinged with yellowish, but not so much as would appear from the coloured figure. In *X. minlosi* these

parts are certainly of a purer white, without the yellowish tinge to be found in the other species.

The white margins to the inner webs of the outer tail-feathers noticeable in *X. minlosi* are wanting in *S. singularis*. On the other hand, the white apical margins to the tertiaries, well represented in the latter bird, are not to be found in *X. minlosi* or are but slightly indicated.

Thus we have now two species of *Xenerpestes*, viz. :—

1. *X. minlosi* Berl. *Hab.* Bucaramanga (Colombia).
2. *X. singularis* (Tacz. & Berl.). *Hab.* Mapoto (Ecuador).

II. METOPOTHRIX.

Having lately found in a collection made on the Rio Putumayo, S.E. Colombia, by the late Mr. Gustav Hopke a specimen of *Metopothrix aurantiacus* Scl. & Salv. (a bird hitherto unknown to me), I have made what I regard to be another important discovery, viz., that this bird is not a *Piprine* form, as was believed by its describers, but a *Dendrocolaptine*, closely allied to *Xenerpestes*, and agreeing with it in general characters of structure, viz., in having the same curved bill, *with prominent swollen tomia at the base of the upper mandible**, and also in exhibiting short stiff frontal feathers, though differing, of course, very much in the style of coloration.

I think that there can be no longer any question as to *Metopothrix* being removed from the *Pipridæ* and placed in the family *Dendrocolaptidæ* not far from *Xenerpestes*.

Schloss Berlepsch, November 1902.

XI.—Additional Remarks on certain Species of American Gallinæ. By W. R. OGILVIE-GRANT.

IN the July number of the 'Auk' (1902, pp. 309-311) Mr. J. A. Allen has criticized my identifications of certain recently described North-American Game-Birds (*cf.* Ibis, 1902, pp. 233-245).

* This character is to be found in nearly all *Dendrocolaptidæ*, being especially conspicuous in the species of the genus *Synallaxis*.